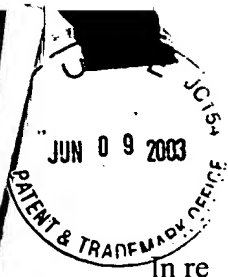


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Group Art Unit 3652



3088
del 6/10/03
#9

In re

Patent Application of

James R. Michler, et al.

Application No. 09/917,179

Confirmation No.: 9647

Filed: July 27, 2001

Examiner: Michael J. Kwon

“APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
STACKING SHEETS DISCHARGED FROM A
STARWHEEL ASSEMBLY”

I, Mary Beth Geipel, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date of my signature.

Mary Beth Geipel
Signature

June 6, 2003
Date of Signature

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR §1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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GROUP 3600

Sir:

The Examiner's attention is directed to the references which are listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A and copies of which are attached. As required by 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3)(i), Applicants include a statement of relevance for each of the two foreign language references.

Citation of these references is respectfully requested.

No concession is made that these documents are prior art, and Applicants expressly reserve the right to antedate the documents as may be appropriate.

Adjustment date: 08/06/2003 EEKUBAY1
06/23/2003 AGRAY1 00000001 500842 09917179
01 FC:1806 180.00 CR

06/23/2003 AGRAY1 00000001 500842 09917179
01-FC:1806 180.00 BA

File No. 019384-9139-00
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Respectfully submitted,

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STATEMENTS OF RELEVANCE

FR 755,348

French Patent No. 755,348 appears to disclose first and second sets of separation fingers (4) movable through a starwheel (1) to begin and hold a stack of sheets being discharged from the starwheel (1). The first and second sets of separation fingers (4) are actuated along a defined path by a common cam shaft (15) that rotates to move respective cam followers (11, 12) coupled to the first and second sets of separator fingers (4).

FR 1,215,073

French Patent No. 1,215,348 appears to disclose multiple sets of separation fingers (6) movable through a starwheel (4) to begin and hold a stack of sheets (2) being discharged from the starwheel (4). The multiple sets of separation fingers (6) are each coupled to and actuated by a common shaft that rotates to move all of the separation fingers (6) through respective linkages (11). Each of the linkages (11) includes a cam follower (13) that is biased into contact with an inner raceway of a cam ring (15) to move the separation fingers (6) along a defined path.